

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Meeting of the Commission
November 18, 2009
10:00 a.m.

James R. Thompson Center
Room 5-300
100 West Randolph Street
Chicago, Illinois
and
Lincoln Land Training Center
130 W. Mason Street, Room 104
Springfield, Illinois

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Commissioners

In Chicago

Acting Chairman Sakhawat Hussain, M.D.

David Chang

Robert S. Enriquez

Marylee V. Freeman

Spencer Leak, Sr.

Munir Muhammad

Rozanne Ronen

Yonnie Stroger

Diane Viverito

Gregory Simoncini (via telephone)

Absent

Marti Baricevic

Staff

Reva Bauch

LaNade Bridges

N. Keith Chambers

Dr. Ewa I. Ewa

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Michael J. Evans
Harriet Parker
Donyelle L. Gray
Evelio Mora
Christine Welninski
Brent Movitz, Coles Fellow

I. Call to Order

On November 18, 2009 at 10:12 a.m., Acting Chairman Sakhawat Hussain called to order a meeting of the Illinois Human Rights Commission.

Pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq., it was determined that:

A quorum of the public body was present at the meeting without the presence of Commissioner Baricevic, and without the physical presence of Commissioner Simoncini. Prior to the meeting Commissioner Baricevic gave notice (and good cause as defined by the Illinois Open Meetings Act) to the General Counsel and Secretary of the Public Body, Harriet Parker that she would not be present at the meeting.

Prior to the meeting, Commissioner Simoncini gave notice (and good cause as defined by the Illinois Open Meetings Act) to the General Counsel and Secretary of the Public Body, Harriet Parker, that he would be unable to be physically present for the November 18, 2009 meeting. The Commission voted to allow Commissioner Simoncini to participate in the meeting via telephone. Motion made by Commissioner Muhammad, seconded by Commissioner Freeman. Motion carried 8-0 (Commissioner Enriquez arrived at the meeting after this vote).

II. Consideration of Minutes

October 21, 2009

The minutes of the meeting of October 21, 2009 were approved as submitted by staff. Motion made by Commissioner Freeman, with a second by Commissioner Muhammad. Motion carried 10-0

III. Staff Reports

A. N. Keith Chambers, Executive Director

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Executive Director Chambers reported that the Annual Report was sent to CMS on November 9, 2009, for editing and design.

Executive Director Chambers reported on Governor Pat Quinn's Cabinet meeting of November 12, 2009. Possible temporary five day layoffs for state employees covered by the collective bargaining agreement was discussed during the Cabinet meeting. Further information regarding the possible layoffs are expected from CMS.

Finally, the Director reported he had met with Mike Pollak and had advised Mike his contract would not be renewed.

B. Dr. Ewa I. Ewa, Chief Fiscal Officer

Chief Fiscal Officer Ewa reported that the HRC has complied with the Auditor General's findings of the HRC Property Control Audit. A policy manual has been created and accepted by the Auditor General. The General Agency Auditors return to the Commission on December 2, 2009 to complete the General Audit.

The Governor's Office is now requiring all agencies to have a 3% reserve. Chief Fiscal Officer Ewa reported that there are three HRC vacancies, one ALJ, one Technical Advisor, and one office manager vacancy, respectively. These three vacancies will be used to create the 3% reserve.

C. Michael Evans, Chief Administrative Law Judge

Chief Evans reported that for the month of October, 2009, twenty two (22) cases were filed and twenty two cases were disposed.

D. Harriet J. Parker, General Counsel

The General Counsel reported on the Amendments to the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act. Emphasis was given to the "Revolving Door" provisions and its impact on future employment of current state employees. Acting Chairman Hussain requested more clarification regarding which employees the proposed amendment references. Commissioner Enriquez requested clarification regarding the term "employee" as provided in the amended Ethics Act.

The statistical update on Requests for Review filed with the Commission from October 1, 2009 through November 6, 2009, and from January 1, 2009 through

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November 6, 2009 was discussed. Commissioner Simoncini requested the statistics include the number of cases actually disposed, which the General Counsel agreed to include.

IV. Old Business

No old business.

V. New Business

Executive Session

Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), the Commissioners voted to close a portion of the public meeting at 11:09 a.m. in order to discuss an internal personnel matter. Motion made by Commissioner Freeman, seconded by Commissioner Viverto. Motion carried 10-0.

At 11:43 a.m., the open meeting resumed. Commissioner Muhammad and Commissioner Freeman left prior to the resumption of the open meeting.

Commissioner Ronen brought up the issue of the Holiday Party for staff. By consensus the Commissioners agreed to have a Holiday Party for staff on December 16, 2009. It was agreed that each Commissioner would contribute \$25.00 which would include the cost of food. Should a December En banc Meeting prove necessary, it was decided Acting Chairman Hussain would so advise the General Counsel. In the event of a December Meeting it was agreed the En banc Meeting would be scheduled for 11:00 a.m. with the Holiday Party to follow at 12:00 noon. Staff are welcome to contribute deserts if they wish.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 a.m. Motion made by Commissioner Ronen, with a second by Commissioner Enriquez. Motion carried 8-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Harriet Parker, General Counsel